

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of automatically sterilizing mail all mail received provides assurance to the recipients of the mail and facilitates efficient processing of the mail. The method comprises the steps of: providing an internal electromagnetic radiation source to sterilize mail deposited in the mail box; providing an electric door switch serially connected to the electromagnetic radiation source adapted to close only when the mail box door is closed so that the electromagnetic radiation radiates from the source only when the front door is closed; and, providing a sterilization timer activated when the mail box door is closed, said timer configured to maintain the electromagnetic source on for a sufficient period after the mail box door is closed to radiate and thereby sterilize any mail deposited therein. One aspect of the invention comprises a method of retro-fitting a mail box with an assembly containing all of the components listed above.